

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0906

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ASPECTS OF PERON'S FEB 4 SPEECH

REF BA 0872

1. SUMMARY. IN SPEECH TO NATION LAST EVENING (FEB 4), PERON LAUDED POLITICAL OPPOSITION FOR RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE AND PRAISED ARMED FORCES AS ONE OF FOUNDATION STONES OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS. HE AT SAME TIME CRITICIZED "OFICIALISMO," WHICH BESET BY INTERNAL PROBLEMS. CALLING AGAIN FOR END TO TERRORISM, HE SAID VIOLENCE FROM RIGHT JUST AS UNACCEPTABLE AS VIOLENCE FROM LEFT AND THAT THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THE ULTRALEFT OR THE ULTRA-RIGHT UNDER HIS GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT MENTION HIS PROJECTED TRIP TO SPAIN AND ALLUDED ONLY INDIRECTLY TO RECENT DISAGREEMENT WITH PERONIST YOUTH LEADERS. END SUMMARY

2. PERON BEGAN SPEECH BY SAYING INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS WAS MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS. IN THIS EFFORT, HE SAID, OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAD PLAYED RESPONSIBLE AND PATRIOTIC ROLE. THEY WERE COLLABORATING WITH GOVT IN NATIONAL TASK AND MAKING MOST CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION.

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3. SPEAKING VERY DIRECTLY, PERON THEN LAMENTED THAT HE COULD NOT

SAY THE SAME ABOUT "OFICIALISMO," IN WHICH INTERNAL PROBLEMS WERE HAVING DETRIMENTAL EFFECT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PROBLEMS WOULD SHORTLY BE OVERCOME AND THAT CAPABLE TEAMS FOR "HOMOGENEOUS GOVERNMENTS" WOULD BE FORMED. (NOTE: IT NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHETHER PERON'S REFERENCE TO "OFICIALISMO" WAS DIRECTED AT THE PERONIST PARTY OR MORE BROADLY AT FREJULI, THE RULING COALITION. SINCE BOTH ARE BESET BY INTERNAL SPLITS AND DISAGREEMENTS, IT MAY HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT BOTH. HIS REFERENCE TO NEW TEAMS FOR "HOMOGENEOUS GOVERNMENTS" WOULD SEEM TO BE RELATED TO ONGOING REORGANIZATION OF GOVT OF BA PROVINCE AND TO POSSIBLE FUTURE NEED TO REORGANIZE THAT IN CORDOBA.)

4. TURNING TO TERRORISM, PERON AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT ATTACK ON GOVT WAS ATTACK ON PEOPLE AND THEREFORE COMPLETELY OUT OF PLACE. RESULTS OF NEW AND TOUGHER LEGISLATION SHOULD SOON BE APPARENT, HE PREDICTED. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE UNDERLINED THAT NEITHER VIOLENCE FROM RIGHT NOR FROM LEFT HAD NAY PLACE IN TODAY'S ARGENTINA. INDEED, HE SAID, NEITHER THE ULTRA RIGHT NOR THE ULTRA LEFT THEMSELVES HAD ANY PLACE IN THE PRESENT ARGENTINE SCHEME OF THINGS, WHICH EMPHASIZED AVOIDANCE OF EXTREMES. HE AGAIN PROMISED GOVT WOULD RESPECT ALL BELIEFS AND ALL GROUPS AND PARTIES WHICH EXPRESSED THEMSELVES WITHIN THE LAW. GOVT WOULD, HOWEVER, DEAL IMPLACABLY WITH THOSE WHO VIOLATED LAW.

5. PERON DID NOT REFER DIRECTLY TO RECENT DISAGREEMENT WITH LEADERS OF LEFTIST SECTOR OF PERONIST YOUTH (SEE BA 0872 AND PREVIOUS). HE DID, HOWEVER, AGAIN RAISE PROBLEM OF YOUNGER GENERATION, CALLING ON THEM TO STUDY AND SO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES THAT THEY CAN REPRESENT THE GUARANTEE OF THE NATION'S FUTURE. THEY MUST NOT FORGET THAT TIME FOR RIOLENCE HAS PASSED. THEY ELECTED A GOVT AND IT IS NOW TO BE HOPED THEY INTEND TO OBEY THAT GOVT AND GET DOWN TO CONSTRUCTIVE WORK. DEVIATIONS HAVE NO RATIONALE AND CANNOT BE TOLERATED, HE CONCLUDED.

6. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE QUESTION MARK HE LEFT CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF YOUTH, PERON GAVE UNRESERVED PRAISE TO THE ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND MAGNIFICENT CONDUCT. THEY HAVE, HE SAID, "STOICALLY ABSORBED THE IMPACT OF THE UNJUST AND MISERABLE ATTACK AGAINST THEM." PERON POINTEDLY REJECTED "THE

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ARGUMENTS OF SOME" (READ, PERONIST YOUTH AND TERRORISTS) THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE THE ENEMIES OF THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS. ON THE CONTRARY, HE DECLARED, THEY ARE ONE OF ITS FOUNDATION STONES.

7. HE ALSO HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE WISDOM AND MATURITY OF LABOR LEADERS. IN SHORT, HE QUESTIONED YOUTH WHILE PRAISING THEIR PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS, THE MILITARY AND THE LABOR SECTOR.

8. REGARDING ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY, PERON REPEATED GENERALITIES CONCERNING UNIVERSALISM, DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL, ETC.

9. COMMENT. PRAISE FOR OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES RECONFIRMS PERON'S INTEREST IN MAINTAINING POLITICAL CONSENSUS, AS DOES HIS REJECTION OF EXTREMES OF LEFT AND RIGHT; BROAD CONSENSUS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITHIN MODERATE MAINSTREAM. EMPHASIS ON ROLE OF OPPOSITION PARTIES ALSO INDIRECTLY STRENGTHENS POSITION OF VICENTE SOLANO LIMA, SECGEN OF PRESIDENCY, WHO IS MAIN DONDUIT TO THEM.

10. HIS REJECTION OF VIOLENCE FROM RIGHT AS WELL AS LEFT AND HIS CONCLUSION THAT NEITHER EXTREME HAS ANY PLACE IN PRESENT SCHEME OF THINGS WILL BE ENCOURAGING TO MODERATE LEFTISTS WHO HAD FEARED REACTION TO AZUL ATTACK MIGHT BE TO UNLEASH EXTREME RIGHT AGAINST ANYONE TO LEFT OF CENTER.

1. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF SPEECH WAS WHAT WAS NOT SAID. PERON MADE NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO HIS PROJECTED TRIP TO SPAIN WHICH IS ONE OF CENTRAL TOPICS OF CURRENT CONVERSATIONS AND IS RESULTING IN MUCH UNCERTAINTY. NOR DID HE, AS EXPECTED, REFER DIRECTLY TO HIS RECENT PROBLEMS WITH SOME PERONIST YOUTH LEADERS. IN LATTER CASE, HE MAY HAVE FELT IT BETTER TO SAY NOTHING THAN TO REOPEN WOUND. FURTHER, HIS GENERAL REMARKS ON YOUTH QUESTION COULD HAVE LEFT NO ONE IN DOUBT AS TO WHERE HE STOOD. THEY WILL EITHER CONFORM OR ELSE.

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